

State of Arkansas

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality



Remedial Action Decision Document

Cedar Chemical Company
West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas

February 2010



9556782

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Notice of Remedial Action Decision Document
Fact Sheet

Facility: Cedar Chemical Corporation
Facility Location: Helena-West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas
EPA I. D. Number: ARD990660649

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has issued a Remedial Action Decision Document (RADD) for the Cedar Chemical Corporation (the Facility). This RADD has been developed to allow the public and interested parties to review plans for Facility clean-up before implementation. After a public comment period, ADEQ will then prepare a final RADD to initiate Facility clean-up.

Documents used in preparation of the RADD, along with the RADD, comprise the administrative record. The administrative record is available for review at the following locations:

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Records Management Section
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas, 72118

UAMS Area Health Education Centers Delta
1393 Highway 242 South
Helena-West Helena, AR 72342

The Facility is located just to the south of the city of Helena-West Helena, in Phillips County, Arkansas. The Facility consists of approximately 48 acres located within the Helena-West Helena Industrial Park, approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and State Highway 242. The Facility is bordered by farmland, State Highway 242, the Union-Pacific Railway, and industrial park properties. Of the 48 acres, approximately 40 acres comprise the abandoned manufacturing fenced area of the Facility. The current wastewater treatment ponds are located on an additional 8 acres of the property.

The Facility was constructed and initially operated by Helena Chemical in 1970. The Facility was purchased by Jerry Williams who formed Eagle River Chemical to operate the Facility. Ansul states on its website that they acquired Eagle River Chemical in 1971. The Facility was operated for approximately 18 months by Ansul under the name of Eagle River Chemical. During this time period, dinoseb was produced on the site. The Facility from 1971 to 2002 manufactured or processed a variety of agricultural and organic chemicals under various owners and operators. The last owner of record was Cedar Chemical Corporation.

During its operational life, the Facility manufactured various agricultural chemicals, including insecticides, herbicides, polymers, and organic intermediates. Plant processes were batch operations, with seasonal production fluctuations and the frequent introduction of new products.

On March 8, 2002, Cedar Chemical Corporation filed for bankruptcy. Manufacturing and plant operations were shut down shortly thereafter. ADEQ assumed control of the Facility on October 12, 2002, and currently acts as the caretaker of the Facility. Currently, the Facility remains abandoned while security guards provide 24 hour maintenance within the fenced area.

As documented in the Comprehensive Assessment Report prepared by ADEQ dated April 2004, the existing environmental issues associated with the Facility included abandoned chemicals, buried drums, groundwater contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination, and an abandoned stormwater treatment system.

On March 16, 2010 ,at the UAMS Area Health Education Centers Delta, Helena-West Helena, AR., ADEQ is holding a public meeting at 6:00 pm followed by a public hearing. Any person, who wishes to comment on this decision to issue a remedial action decision, can do so during the public hearing, or submit written comments concerning ADEQ decisions about this matter by hand delivering, mailing, or faxing such written comments along with their name and address, to ADEQ at the address below.

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Clyde E. Rhodes, Jr.
Chief, Hazardous Waste Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317
Telephone: (501) 682-0916 Fax: (501) 682-0565

All comments and requests must be received by 4:30 p.m. on March 25th, 2010. Only comments regarding the RADD will be considered.

Submitting written comments to ADEQ or making oral statements on the record at any formal public hearing on the RADD provides individuals with legal standing to appeal a final Department decision. Only parties with legal standing may appeal a decision.

The RADD is issued under the authority of the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act (Arkansas Code Annotated Section 8-7-201 and following sections), the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (Arkansas Code Annotated Section 8-7-501 and following sections) as amended, and Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC) Regulation No. 23. This public notice and other actions for this remedial action decision will follow procedures for permitting decisions in APC&EC Regulation No. 8.

Dated this 24rd day of February, 2010

Teresa Marks
Director
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality